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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 67% Scattered Thunderstorms Sensex 76,992 | Nifty 23,465 | Gold 71,650 | Silver 89,023 | Dollar 83.52 | Euro 89.48 | GBP 105.84

PRICE PAIN

Expensive veggies are burning holes in the purse even as politics over fuel price hike reaches crescendo

PAGE 5

FAULT IN STARS

All accused arrested in murder case featuring actor Darshan; Sandalwood stars break silence, seek justice

PAGE 7

BBMP claims it has removed 3,840 illegal banners and registered 48 FIRs, but activists say there is no follow-up on action taken against violators of ban

FLEX AND THE CITY

2,399 illegal hoardings removed from Mahadevapura that tops list

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It seems the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally decided to remove illegal flexes, banners and hoardings across the city. However, civic activists have cautioned that though BBMP expresses intent to remove these eyesores from the city, if it does not do so without fear or favour, the issue will never be solved.

Though illegal banners, flexes have been banned, some people and political parties continue to defy the rule by putting them up under one or the other pretext. Supporters of politicians vie among themselves to put up the maximum number of flexes.

The BBMP, in a release, claimed that it has removed more than 3,840 illegal flexes and registered 48 first information reports (FIRs) and lodged 76 complaints at different police stations against those responsible for putting up illegal flexes. The BBMP officials have collected Rs 75,000 as a penalty from those violating the ban on illegal banners.

It is stated that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar instructed the authorities to ensure no illegal flexes and banners are found

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

> The BBMP officials remove flexes and banners and also lodge complaints with the police but there is no follow up. No one knows what happened to the FIRs registered or complaints lodged with the police
>
> — GR Mohan, advocate

Green junctions worth Rs 20 cr

BBMP plans major improvements that can lead to better aesthetics, air quality at 20 junctions

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When it comes to making new plans, nobody can accuse Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike of holding back. In the latest, BBMP plans improvements at 20 locations comprising major roads and junctions. Five out of the 20 locations have been identified to have poor air quality and these additions are aimed as a solution to that problem.

Contrary to common perception of junctions being just concrete structures, BBMP wants to create green spaces here to add aesthetic value as well as improve the quality of air.

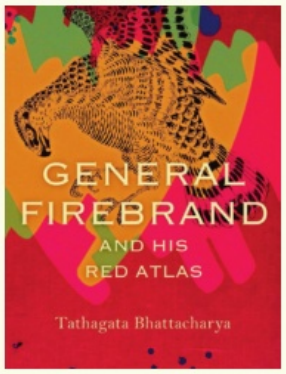
As part of the project, Palike will take up work such as desilting of drains, reconstruction of drains and replacement of drain slabs (if any), demolition/dismantling of existing dilapidated footpaths and other built structures as per reference drawings, laying of edge kerb and pavers, construction of ramps and providing of bollards at entry/exit points, providing pole lights for effective and sufficient lighting, providing of soil and planting of trees for shade, flowering/non-flowering plants and shrubs and lawn/ground covers, laying of lane markings,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Read on

Join in for a book launch and discussion on 'General Firebrand and his Red Atlas' with Tathagata Bhattacharya with a dramatised reading by Nimi Ravindran as a part of Seagull Week at the bookstore. It is an explosive debut novel that challenges conventional wisdom and explores the complexities of courage, doubt, and the pursuit of justice in a world dominated by fear.



Where: Champaca Bookstore
When: June 22, 5 pm

02 Macrame art

Experience the joy of crafting in the beautiful art of macrame with the Macramé Art Workshop. With wall hangings, plant hangers, or other unique decor items, dive into an exciting world of creativity while you tie, twist, and create your pieces. Whether you're a seasoned artist or a complete beginner, this workshop offers a fantastic opportunity to craft stunning macrame pieces under the guidance of an expert instructor.
Where: Small World, Koramangala
When: June 18 to 22

03 Durational play

Watch Touchy Topic, a non-verbal solo durational performance by Durga Venkatesan. This experimental work is designed to address the sensitive and crucial issue of inappropriate touching. It is not easy to talk about being harassed. Thus, the artist decides to stand for 60 minutes to share her body and embody the imprints of our collective experience of being touched inappropriately.
Where: Shoonya Centre for Somatic Arts and Practices
When: June 23, 7 pm onwards

Festive prayers

Muslim devotees offer Eid al-Adha prayers at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru on Monday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Situation is not so NEET now

Karnataka joins other states against pan-India test, advocates for localised exams

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With the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) controversies, Karnataka is also now joining other states in opposing a pan-India test and instead wants the tests for medical admissions to be conducted at the state level. Now, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has urged the Centre to grant states the authority to organise their own entrance examinations in lieu of NEET.

Following irregularities observed in the NEET, DKS said that the future prospects of countless students are at stake, urging the Centre to abolish the NEET and permit states to administer their individual entrance tests. He proposed that students from all regions of the country should have the opportunity to participate in state-conducted exams. The results of the NEET-UG exam, which was held on May 5 at 4,750 centres across 571 cities, were announced on June 4. Following the announcement, parents and teachers raised concerns about the grace marks given to the 1,563 students.

Meanwhile, opinion is divided on whether to have a pan-India test or not. An official said that NEET has ushered in significant changes and represents a step towards uniformity. However, he acknowledged that Tamil Nadu faces unique challenges in this regard. According to him, candidates in Tamil Nadu primarily study in Tamil and then transition to taking the NEET exam in English, which can pose difficulties. He stressed the need for uniformity in language policies to streamline the process rather than complicate it. He expressed his concern regarding educational standards, highlighting that NEET offers an equal platform for students and that without it, students would have to tackle various state and national entrance exams separately. Therefore, he strongly advocates for NEET.

AIDSO activists protested seeking a judicial probe into the NEET-UG exam last week in Mysuru

> **"NEET offers an equal platform for students; without it, they would have to tackle various state and national entrance exams separately** –Official

However, a college principal on anonymity said, "The argument for justice is centred on reports suggesting that students from rural areas face lower odds of cracking the NEET. This situation impacts the aspirations of these children, leading to unfortunate circumstances and emphasising the urgency of the entire issue." He noted that detractors of NEET do not call for its scrapping and have no issues with JEE, for instance. Evidently, this is because NEET is the sole method for admission into central-level colleges, applicable at both state and central levels. He explained that opponents of NEET argue that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) favours students from its own board by extending the syllabus, which requires state board students to study additional materials. As a solution, the Tamil Nadu government is adopting a legal route by proposing to use the state board examination as the criteria for selection in state medical colleges. He further said, "However, medical entrance tests have evolved over time, yet the allocation of medical seats remains inadequate. This disparity is evident, especially since the number of CBSE schools in the state is considerable. Standardising medical admissions based solely on their board of study will pose a significant challenge."

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently stated that the government would take decisive action against National Testing Agency officials if they were found guilty of irregularities in the conduct of the NEET 2024. Preliminary reports indicated that some students were awarded grace marks as they experienced time loss during the exam. The government has rejected the allocation of these grace marks and ordered a re-examination for the 1,563 affected students, in compliance with a Supreme Court directive.

How keen eyes put Bluru-Mysuru highway on road to safety

Surveillance cameras, careful monitoring by police control room helps bring 69% dip in deaths due to accidents this year

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The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway has witnessed a remarkable 69% decrease in deaths due to road accidents in 2024. From January to May 2024, 31 fatalities occurred in 125 reported accidents, compared to 100 deaths in 288 accidents during the same period in 2023. This substantial decline highlights the effectiveness of recent safety measures implemented on this crucial stretch.

In 2023, 288 accidents were recorded on the highway, of which 87 were fatal and 201 non-fatal, resulting in 100 deaths and 301 injuries. The situation has improved significantly in 2024, with 28 fatal and 97 non-fatal accidents leading to 31 deaths and 167 injuries.

April 2024 saw the highest number of accidents, with 31 incidents reported, a substantial decrease from the 61 accidents recorded in April 2023.

"Our persistent efforts are paying off. We have reduced deaths from 100 in January-May 2023 to 31 in January-May 2024, and from 29 deaths in May 2023 to just 3 in May 2024. Kudos to our team of SPs and CP. Let's strive together to make the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway a death-free zone," tweeted Alok Kumar, the Additional Director General of Police for Traffic and Road Safety.

Measures taken

Addressing the high number of accidents in 2023, Alok Kumar, alongside police and highway officials, identified several factors contributing to the high accident rates. They then implemented targeted safety measures, leading to a notable reduction in accidents.

"A major factor in this improvement has been the strategic installation of surveillance cameras at five key points along the Bengaluru-Nidaghatta and Nidaghatta-Mysuru sections.

These cameras, overseen by the Ramnagar and Mandya District Police Departments, have significantly enhanced monitoring capabilities. Each district's police control room now houses servers that meticulously record traffic violations, allowing for quicker responses and stricter enforcement of traffic regulations," said the police.

Sources also said that the collaboration between police and highway officials has been crucial in reducing fatalities and enhancing overall road safety.

Interim bail to POCSO case accused

HC allows man to come out to get married to girl who has now turned 18 and is mother to a toddler

The High Court has granted interim bail to an accused in a POCSO case for him to be able to marry the alleged victim. Both families involved were seeking for the proceedings against the man to be closed for them to get married.

The mother of the victim had registered a complaint against the accused, claiming that he had taken her 16-year-and-nine-month-old daughter to an isolated area on his bike and had committed sexual assault on her. The couple are said to have fallen in love while studying in the same school and would meet often.

The police conducted an investigation and filed a charge sheet against the accused. The matter is now pending and the accused/petitioner is under judicial custody. The victim now has a child aged one year.

The court has noted that the DNA test conducted at the time of the birth of the child confirms that the victim is the mother of the child while the accused is the biological father.

Keeping in mind the tender age of the mother, who is now a 18-year-old and her tough situation burdening over the responsibilities of raising a child, the court has permitted the petitioner to marry the victim.

"The newborn does not know what has happened. It should not suffer the ignominy of any kind in future. Therefore, to protect the interest of the child and also the responsibility of the mother in bringing up the child, this direction is found necessary to be issued," the court said.

The matter has now been adjourned to July 4. The Court granted the interim bail while hearing a challenge to the proceedings for offenses punishable under Section 376 (2)(n) of the IPC and Sections 5(L), 5(J)(II)a and 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012. The single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna said, "I deem it appropriate to grant the petitioner interim bail in exercise of jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. enabling the petitioner to come out and get married to the victim." **BMB**

'Victim of prostitution cannot be penalised'

A woman who is a victim of prostitution cannot be punished for offenses punishable under Section 5 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, held the High Court.

Allowing a petition filed by a woman who had been charged under the provision, a single judge bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna said, "The provisions, the purpose or the object of the Act is not to abolish prostitution or the prostitute. There is no provision under the law, which penalises a victim who indulges in prostitution. What is punishable is sexual exploitation for commercial purposes and to earn or make a living upon it against such person/s."

The background of the case is as follows: A police sub-inspector attached to the crime wing of Kundapura police station received information that some girls are being illegally transported from Udupi to Goa in a tempo traveler for the purpose of putting them in the business of prostitution.

The vehicle was intercepted on National Highway 66. After the interception, it was found that accused No.1 along with accused No.9 were taking the petitioner/accused No.8 and others for engaging them in the business of prostitution by paying them Rs 10,000. On the basis of this, a crime was registered and the police after investigation filed a charge sheet against all the accused including the petitioner.

The prosecution had opposed the plea citing that the case is now 10 years old and the petitioner should come out clean in trial. On the other hand, the petitioner argued she is the victim and hence could not be prosecuted.

"Nowhere does Section 5 of the Act indicate that a woman who is a victim of prostitution should be punished for offences punishable under Section 5 of the Act," the court said.

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Kannur plant to recycle meat waste into pet food

Currently, nearly 2 tonnes of meat waste is being collected from panchayat areas

Meat waste collected from shops will be converted into aquaculture feed and pet food

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In an effort to solve the problem of discarded meat waste on roads, a meat processing plant in Kannur will soon collect meat waste from shops and convert it into aquaculture feed and pet food. With trials expected to start by July, the 30 Metric Tonnes (MT) meat processing plant in Kannur is soon going to be operational.

The 30 MT capacity processing plant is a public-private partnership with Bana Ecoworks and Mahadevapura Task Force. The Kannur Grama Panchayat has provided 20,000 square feet of land for setting up the space, and the vendor is required to set up the facility at its own cost. Estimatedly, the first phase is being established at Rs 5 crore.

> **Most waste is found discarded on roads, lakes, & rajakaluves. From Mahadevapura constituency alone, nearly six to eight tonnes of meat waste can be collected daily**
>
> –Vendor

It is estimated that 100 tonnes of meat waste are generated in Bengaluru. With no collection system for meat waste, meat shops are forced to discard it in public spaces, as most of the waste is found discarded on roads, lakes, and rajakaluves. From the Mahadevapura constituency alone, nearly six to eight tonnes of meat waste can be collected daily, says a vendor.

The processing plant has completed the civil and machinery works and is awaiting consent for operation from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. Currently, the plant is collecting nearly two tonnes of meat waste from panchayat areas like Kannur, Biderahalli, Seegehalli, and Kannali.

Collection & making processes

"We have already acquired consent for the establishment. Trials are expected to start on July 15," said Abhishek MN, CEO of Bana Eco Works. The company would start collecting meat waste from shops twice a day. "We have provided plastic drums to the meat shops for waste collection. We pick up the drums and transfer the contents to our refrigerated vans to prevent biodegradation. We will collect them in the early morning and late evening. It is then processed and converted into a protein meal. "After passing through a high-pressure cooking process, the amino acid bonds break the solid state of meat into a powder state. It is further dried to be made into meat powder," he added.

In the initial stage, the vendor will be starting the facility with a 30 MT capacity and then expand it to a 60 MT capacity. On average, if the facility receives 30 MT of meat waste, it will be able to generate 7.5 MT of protein meal. Meat has a nearly 30-45 per cent watery content, and it takes 4–4.5 hours to process a batch. In the initial stage, the facility is planning on four batches. Initially, it will focus on processing chicken meat waste and later will add fish meat waste as well. Based on the success of the project, the company hopes to expand the service to other parts of Bengaluru as well.

Bring 'em down without 'fear or favour'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the BBMP's jurisdiction and the BBMP Chief Commissioner has directed the Zonal Commissioners to remove flexes. BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil has been holding meetings with BBMP officers from eight zones and directed them to remove the posters and lodge FIRs against those responsible for putting them up in the first place.

The BBMP has advised the public to inform about illegal flexes and banners by calling the helpline 1533 or by sending photos of illegal flexes to WhatsApp number 9480683939.

Most affected areas

Among the zones, Mahadevapura is at the first spot with 2,399 flexes, banners, and hoardings removed, RR Nagar in the second place with 477, and Bengaluru East in third place with 290, followed by Yelahanka 264, Dasarahalli 186, Bengaluru South 112, Bommanahalli 77, and Bengaluru West 38.

'Removal of illegal flexes and banners must be done on a daily basis'

However, social activists and volunteers are urging the BBMP to carry on the task without any fear or favour. "The BBMP authorities are removing the flexes and banners and also lodging complaints with the police but there is no follow up. No one knows what happened to the FIRs registered or complaints lodged with the police," said GR Mohan, advocate who represented the petitioner who filed a PIL on illegal banners, flexes and hoardings in the city.

Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said the BBMP officials must make sure to remove all illegal banners that have become an eyesore. "The BBMP officials have to take up removal of illegal flexes and banners on a daily basis," he said.

Subhajit Ghosh, a resident of Medahalli, said the BBMP authorities are yet to remove a hoarding installed on the lake land. "We have complained to the authorities concerned but they failed to remove the hoarding installed illegally on the lake land," he said.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Defunct ATMs

Kuvempu Road Metro Station

The SBI ATMs at Kuvempu Metro Station have been non-functional for the past 10 days, causing significant inconvenience to customers. It raises the question of why SBI has not taken any steps to rectify the issue.

Unhygienic drain

Vasanthnagar

This clogged rainwater drain is filled with faecal matter, causing a foul stench in Ward #93, located near the railway underpass, affecting nearby residents and pedestrians. Authorities concerned are urged to take action and instruct the Area Health Office to promptly clean up the area.

Prompt action

Hoodi bus stop

Following the BM report on garbage being dumped every day at the Hoodi bus stop, BBMP reacted quickly by cleaning up the place. BM reader thanked Mirror for the impact.

Miseries of price rise

Consumers feel pinch as price inflates kitchen budget

The kitchen budget is further increasing with a fresh round of price rises in vegetables. For instance, beans, typically priced at Rs 50-80 per kg, soared to Rs 200 per kg in the wholesale market last month, and in retail, they reached Rs 150-170 per kg. This upward price trend persists. Green chilies, brinjals, and tomatoes are also at unprecedented levels, with green chilies and brinjals surpassing Rs 100, and tomatoes reaching Rs 75. Several other vegetables are also at record highs. This price escalation is attributed to the heatwave from February peaking in March and April, causing water scarcity and drought-like conditions across the state. The situation worsened due to heavy rainfall lasting about three weeks since May, damaging various crops such as beans, brinjals, chapparada, green chilies, and spinach. Consequently, prices for these vegetables surged, along with tomatoes, which still remain high at Rs 75. The substantial crop damage from the heavy May rainfall has led to shortages and price spikes, particularly affecting vegetables like beans, brinjals, green chilies, spinach, and tomatoes. Furthermore, banana prices have spiked from Rs 40-50 per kg to Rs 80 due to crop damage and increased demand for events like weddings and housewarming ceremonies. Similarly, coriander leaves have seen a price surge to Rs 80-100 per bunch, alongside cabbage and methi leaves, which are now priced at Rs 40-50 per bunch. Despite the high prices, good-quality vegetables are scarce. In wholesale markets, coriander leaves are priced at Rs 267 per kg.

Heavy rainfall & crop damage have caused significant price increases, with shortages & high prices until off season

Regarding pricing, Gowramma, a vegetable seller, said, "All prices have surged. Garlic is priced between 250-300, and various tomato varieties range from 60-90." They noted significant differences compared to last week. "Last week, prices were around 30-40, but now they've doubled to 60-70." Apart from vendors, consumers have been directly impacted by these price hikes, creating significant concern in Bengaluru and surrounding areas. Consumers acknowledge the price increases, which have compromised their quality of life and raised questions about the affordability of essential food items. Some consumers have opted to shop online due to better quality and lower prices than street vendors, posing a threat to vendors' livelihoods. Consumers also attribute the weather conditions as a major factor contributing to price hikes.

Some have even chosen to avoid purchasing certain vegetables due to their escalating costs and the strain on their budgets. Heavy rainfall and crop damage have caused significant price increases, with shortages and high prices likely to persist until the off-season. Wholesale trader Shivashankar, APMC market, predicts prices will remain elevated until then.

—S Hamsini

Cab unions request increase in fare rates

Taxi industry faces existential threat as unions seek relief from government amid rising operational costs

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Predicting a massive impact on the transport sector due to fuel price hikes, cab unions are planning to ask the government to increase the uniform fare pricing by Rs 1.50 per km.

While cab unions say that the price hike will further burden the passengers and negatively impact the industry. Cab unions are likely to ask for a rollback of fuel price hikes or ask for an increase in uniform fare pricing.

Effective from June 16, the petrol prices have reached Rs 102.84 from Rs 99.84 in Bengaluru seeing a Rs 3 per litre hike. The diesel prices have reached Rs 88.95 from Rs 85.93 seeing an increase of Rs 3.02 per litre hike. The fuel price hike is seen as a consequence of the state government hiking the sales tax on petrol from the previous 25.92 per cent to 29.84 per cent. Tax on diesel increased from 14.3 per cent to 18.4 per cent.

Demanding a rollback of the fuel hike, cab unions plan on pushing for an increase in the uniform fare pricing by Rs 1.50 per km.

"We don't have any other option but to hike the fare rates. This will increase the burden on both passengers and cab drivers. We want a rollback of the fare hike and have submitted a memorandum and will directly present it to the Chief Minister tomorrow. If there is no rollback, we will have to ask the government to increase the uniform fare pricing by Rs 1.50 per km. The fuel hike will have a significant impact on the commercial vehicle industry. The bus industry requires at least 35,000 litres per day and a Rs 3 hike would mean an additional cost of Rs 1,05,000 per day," said Nataraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Association.

> **Against the fixed Rs 23-24 km as per the fare rate, drivers are only earning Rs 10-15 per km**–Tanveer Pasha, President, Ola Uber Drivers and Owners Association

After submitting the request for a rollback of the price hike to the government, the unions plan on going on protest in case of inaction.

Unions say that without any relief from the state government, the Bengaluru taxi industry could cease to exist in Bengaluru. "We want a decrease in fuel prices or the state government to provide some subsidy. The government needs to calculate the earnings of taxi drivers against rising living costs and vehicle tax. There should be some relief for commercial vehicles to be feasible to operate. The government should strictly implement a uniform fare rate. Against the fixed Rs 23-24 km as per the fare rate, drivers are only earning Rs 10-15 per km. Further, they need to incur more deductions for commissions paid to cab aggregators," Tanveer Pasha, President of the Ola Uber Drivers and Owners Association.

"The number of can drivers in the city has dropped from nearly 1.25 lakhs to 30-35 thousand. Until 2019, we used to have more than 1 lakh cab drivers and by Covid, they had dropped to 20 thousand. After Covid, the numbers rose to 45-50 thousand by 2023 and now they are again decreasing and have reached 3,035,000. Due to rising costs and financial inviability, cabs are being seized by financing companies, some are surrendering the cabs, and some are selling and moving back to their hometowns. In this state, the taxi industry could cease to exist in Bengaluru," he added.

'Political war' erupts over petrol price hike

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The recent hike in fuel prices has escalated into a full-blown political conflict, with Congress defending the rise while BJP and AAP intensify their protests. On Monday, BJP leaders engaged in various forms of protest throughout the state, demanding a rollback of the price hike; AAP has announced plans to protest on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah argued that fuel prices in Bengaluru were comparatively lower than in other cities. "In Bengaluru, petrol is priced at Rs 102.85 per litre and diesel at Rs 88.94. In the neighbouring town of Hosur, petrol is priced at Rs 102.84 and diesel at Rs 94.41. In Kasargod, it's Rs 106.66 for petrol and Rs 98.60 for diesel. In Hyderabad, it's Rs 107.40 for petrol and Rs 95.64 for diesel. In Kagal (Maharashtra), petrol is priced at Rs 104.66 and diesel at Rs 91.01."

Siddaramaiah stressed that the sales tax on petrol and diesel is not currently at its highest level. He provided historical data, stating that in April 2016, the sales tax on petrol was 30 per cent, and on diesel, it was 19 per cent. This was reduced to 28.75 per cent and 17.73 per cent, respectively, in February 2018. However, in January 2019, the sales tax was further increased to 32 per cent on petrol and 21 per cent on diesel. By April 2020, the sales tax reached its peak at 35 per cent for petrol and 24 per cent for diesel. As of November 2021, the sales tax on petrol was reduced to 25.9 per cent and 14.34 per cent for diesel, but on June 16, 2024, it was increased to 29.84 per cent for petrol and 18.44 per cent for diesel.

On Monday, CM Siddaramaiah clarified, "The estimated Rs 3,000 crore collected from the increase in value-added tax on petrol and diesel will be deposited into the state treasury. This money will be allocated to people's welfare programmes and will not be used for personal gain. The state government is allocating Rs 60,000 crore for guarantee schemes, benefiting the poor and middle class across all caste-communities in the state."

Former Chief Minister and MP Basavaraj Bommai accused the state Congress government of betraying the common people by imposing taxes on the poor under the guise of providing guarantees and compared the state unfavourably to others.

He criticised the lack of developmental activities and claimed that the state's progress was at a standstill, attributing financial bankruptcy to the state Congress government.

In response, Siddaramaiah highlighted the limitations on resource mobilisation for state governments post the implementation of the GST system by the Central Government.

K-RIDE tree felling: Total reaches 33,164 amidst review

Originally estimating 32,572 trees to be axed for the BSRP, an additional 592 trees were identified along Corridor 4, between Ambedkar Nagar Railway Station & Muddenahalli Cross

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In addition to the 32,572 trees expected to be axed for Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited's (K-Ride) Bangalore Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) project, another 592 trees have been identified for felling. Now, the updated total of trees slated for axing stands at 33,164.

In its review of the Corridor 4 proposal, BBMP discovered an additional 592 unnumbered trees beyond K-Ride's initial application. These trees are located between Ambedkar Nagar Railway Station and Muddenahalli Cross. The Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) explained that K-Ride cited difficulties in tree identification due to inaccessibility during the 2021 numbering process and subsequent design changes due to land acquisition progress.

Initially, K-Ride estimated a total of 32,572 trees along the alignment of the project's 4 corridors. Of these, 1,071 trees are outside BBMP limits and 13,996 are within BBMP limits. BBMP granted permission for the felling of 2,098 trees and the transplantation of 178 trees. To compensate, K-Ride has deposited Rs 8,07,59,680 to BBMP for planting 22,760 trees, with 59 trees already transplanted.

Specifically, 17,323 trees are slated for felling at Akkipete Depot and 22 trees at Soldevanahalli Depot. Estimated numbers for each corridor are as follows: 7,198 trees for Corridor 1 (KSR Bengaluru City to Devanahalli), 3,469 trees for Corridor 2 (Baiyyappanahalli Terminal to Chikkabanavara), 2,072 trees for Corridor 3 (Kengeri to Whitefield), and 2,898 trees for Corridor 4 (Heelalige to Rajanakunte).

KRide constructions are ongoing at various parts of the city

In its review of the Corridor 4 proposal, BBMP discovered an additional 592 unnumbered trees beyond K-Ride's initial application

Somanna's commitment to urgency in rail projects

K-RIDE is set to appoint a full-time Managing Director with technical expertise, announced Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V Somanna. Following discussions on developmental projects in Karnataka, Somanna recalled the previous absence of an MD at K-RIDE during his tenure as Infrastructure Minister in the state. He informed reporters that he has spoken with the Chief Secretary to expedite the appointment of a qualified technical professional within the next 15-20 days.

Highlighting the BJP's efforts during its Karnataka tenure, Somanna noted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foundation stone laying for the suburban railway network. He affirmed that long-pending railway projects, including nine significant initiatives, are slated for completion by December 2026 and 2028 respectively. Stressing on the urgency, he pledged swift action on the doubling of railway tracks as per the vision set by the Prime Minister and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Addressing concerns about the recent train collision in West Bengal, Somanna expressed deep concern and instructed senior officers to provide a detailed report promptly. He plans to convene with Railway Board officials in Delhi for further insights and investigation into the incident's causes.

During his review of ongoing projects under the South Western Railway jurisdiction, discussions centred on 14 major initiatives, encompassing new lines and doubling projects totaling 1,264 km and 707 km respectively. Notable projects include the Hotgi-Kudgi-Gadag and Yeshwanthpur-Channasandra double lines, alongside new lines like Tumkur-Rayadurg and Shimoga-Shikaripura-Ranebennur.

Somanna underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between railway officials, district administrations, and K-RIDE to accelerate project timelines. He urged officials to expedite land acquisition processes and assured systematic completion of pending projects in the upcoming years.

Regarding safety measures, he outlined plans to eliminate all level crossings and enhance train speed and security, particularly around Bengaluru. He directed railway officers to conduct thorough reviews and take necessary steps to achieve these goals promptly.

As Jal Shakti Minister, Somanna also assured continued support for the Jal Jeevan mission, emphasising ongoing discussions with Cabinet members to advance water management initiatives. —PTI

Institute director in power struggle

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If the letter written by the Chief Administrative Officer is anything to go by, it seems that all is not well at the Institute of Nephro Urology. The Chief Administrative Officer wrote a letter to the Director of Medical Education, narrating how Dr Keshavamurthy R, the in-charge Director of the Institute of Nephro Urology, has been making unilateral decisions without con

Asha Parveen, Chief Administrative Officer of the Institute of Nephro Urology, wrote a letter to the Director of Medical Education and higher authorities stating that it has become tough for her to work at the Institute of Nephro Urology. "The in-charge Director, who was supposed to be in office for six months, has been continuing in office for the last six years. The in-charge Director not only shouts at female employees but also creates problems for me in discharging my duties," Parveen said in the letter.

According to reliable sources, it is alleged that Dr Keshavamurthy has been encouraging and promoting doctors who allegedly comply with his wishes. Sources said the in-charge Director does not assist needy people who visit the Institute of Nephro Urology.

Sources said Dr Keshava Murthy is always ready to take action and send letters to higher authorities against doctors and employees who question him. "I do not know why the higher authorities have allowed him to continue in office despite receiving so many complaints against him. He does not take action against doctors who work at private hospitals during working hours because those doctors are in his good books," said a doctor.

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Rain breathes new life into Hampi, boosts tourism

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Hampi, a world-renowned tourist destination, has seen a significant increase in visitors due to continuous rainfall over the past few days. The rain has enhanced the beauty of the monuments, creating a unique experience for tourists. The summer heat had previously kept many visitors away, but the arrival of the monsoon has doubled the number of tourists. The pleasant weather and the reflection of the monuments in the standing water have been particularly captivating.

Tourists who were reluctant to visit during the summer heat are now eagerly exploring the site. The recent weekend saw a surge in visitors to landmarks such as the Virupaksha Temple, Vijaya Vittala Temple, and the Queen's Bath. The rain has revitalised these monuments, adding to their charm and allure.

The tourism industry, which had suffered during the summer, is now experiencing a revival. The hospitality sector is also benefiting from the influx of tourists. The rain has brought relief to those working in tourism, who are now hopeful for a prosperous season.

Key monuments in Hampi, including Sasivikal Ganesh, Shri Krishna Temple, Rani's Snan Gruha, Kamal Mahal, and Mahanavami Dibba, are drawing large crowds. The reflected images of these monuments in the standing water are a visual delight. The rain has not only rejuvenated the monuments but has also enhanced the overall visitor experience.

The rise in tourist numbers has brought joy to those who depend on tourism for their livelihood. The beauty of Hampi, previously obscured by the summer heat, has been revealed again, much to the delight of visitors.

Tourists from various Indian states and countries are flocking to Hampi. Visitors from Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan are arriving in large numbers. Foreign tourists are also showing keen interest. Among domestic tourists, those from Andhra Pradesh are the most numerous. This weekend saw a significant influx of Telugu-speaking visitors from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The increased tourism is boosting local businesses and the hotel industry. The rain has revitalised the monuments, drawing tourists eager to enjoy their beauty. The tourism industry in Hampi is thriving, and the outlook is positive.

The Hampi monuments, which had been hidden during the summer heat, are now showcasing their beauty in the rain. Thousands of tourists visit daily, enjoying the monuments in the continuous rain. The reflected images of the monuments in the standing water add to the magical experience. The tourism and hotel industries are flourishing, and those working in these sectors are optimistic about a good season.

Renuka Swamy murder: All accused now nabbed

Police say ninth accused who had disappeared after murder has been arrested

Police have arrested all 19 accused in the Renuka Swamy murder case involving Kannada superstar Darshan. Raju alias Dhanraj, the ninth accused in the case who disappeared after the murder, has been arrested, said DCP (West) S Girish on Monday.

The police had arrested 13 accused, including superstar Darshan, a day after the murder of his 33-year-old fan came to light. Police sources said that accused Raju, also known as Dhanraj, had told the police that he had no direct connection with Darshan.

Raju is a friend of the fifth accused, Nandish, who is an ardent fan of Darshan. Nandish had obtained the electric device from Raju to allegedly administer an electric shock to fan Renuka Swamy, who later died. Raju and Nandish were in the cable business. Renuka Swamy was given electric shocks through an electrical test equipment called a megger, used to measure insulation resistance.

Meanwhile, prominent Veerashaiva-Lingayat pontiff Rambhapuri Swamiji visited the residence of the deceased Renukaswamy and consoled the family members.

Sandalwood stars speak

After almost a week, the big stars of Kannada film industry on Monday spoke about actor Darshan's alleged involvement in a murder.

Actors Upendra and Kiccha Sudeep voiced their opinions on the case. Both stressed that the victim and his family should get their due justice. Upendra posted on his 'X' account that when a public figure is caught in such a brutal case, all videos, documents and proof should be made public. Stressing that not only Karnataka but India is watching, Upendra said he is awaiting impartial decision and justice in the trial of this high-profile case.

"There is some anxiety and suspicion about how the case is being handled among Renuka Swamy's family, people, media as well as Darshan fans. Speculations are rife. So, the video footage of the trial and all the details of the witnesses should be shared by the police with the families of the persons concerned.

A search was conducted for Renuka Swamy's mobile with the help of BBMP personnel, at a city drain, on Monday; Top: The accused were taken to a cafe in RR Nagar for mahazar on Monday

Notice to Chikanna

The police investigating the Renuka Swamy murder case issued a notice to Kannada actor Chikkanna on Monday, summoning him for questioning. Authorities decided to question 37-year-old Chikkanna, known for his comedic roles, as he was reportedly with Darshan on the night of June 8 when the alleged crime occurred. According to police sources, the questioning is intended to determine Chikkanna's knowledge of the case and any relevant information he may possess.

> **His wife, unborn child deserve justice. For everyone to have faith in it, justice should prevail in this case**
> –Sudeep, actor

This should, in fact, become a law," he wrote. Upendra insisted that this is the only way that Renuka Swamy's family, people, media and Darshan fans will have more respect for the police.

Sudeep told reporters people only know what the media is showing them. He insisted that Renuka Swamy, who died on the streets, deserves justice. "His wife deserves justice. His unborn child deserves justice. Above all, for everyone to have faith in it, justice should prevail in this case," he said. When a reporter asked about his friendship with Darshan, Sudeep said friendship or relationship is different from wanting justice. —**Agencies**

'Art can be medium for voicing dissent'

Citizens organise panel discussion on avenues for discourse after protests limited to designated space in park in city

The use of art in voicing dissent was highlighted by speakers at a panel discussion here in the context of a recent court ruling that limits public protests to a designated space with a park.

Citizens for Sankey organised a panel discussion on 'Art as Activism: Creative Avenues for voicing dissent' in the light of the recent ruling by the Karnataka High Court that limits public protests in Bengaluru to a designated space within one park in the city.

Citizens for Sankey is a group consisting of civic activists and residents of Sadashivanagar, Vyalikaval and Malleswaram, formed initially to protest against the Sankey Road flyover project.

"Stifled by protest restrictions, our fight against the Sankey flyover last year forced creative ways of expressing dissent. Despite that, we faced FIRs.

A year on, citizens continue to receive FIRs for exercising their constitutional right to peacefully protest. This is hugely problematic and prevents us citizens from participating in democracy, which is our right," Kimsuka Iyer of Citizens for Sankey said.

The recent court ruling, which states that protests can be held only after getting permission from the police, can also be problematic, claimed advocate Vinay Srinivas, one of the panelists.

"For over two years, police have restricted protests, public gatherings in any place other than Freedom Park, and have refused permission for processions. This has caused enormous hardship to all those seeking to exercise their constitutional rights and is against the very spirit of plural and diverse Karnataka where all citizens can make their concerns heard and felt," Sreenivasa alleged.

According to him, the Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) Order, 2021 designated Freedom Park as the only place for protests in the city.

"This rule has made it incredibly difficult, particularly for marginalised communities. What sense does it make for farmers from Devanahalli to travel to an isolated part of Freedom Park to voice their dissent?" Sreenivasa said.

Artist Shilo Shiv Suleman and poet and activist Mamta Sagar, also part of the panel, discussed the use of art in voicing dissent.

"We must protect and network political art. There are no institutions in the art world which allow for depicting the realities and reflections of communities through art, which is where the Fearless Foundation comes in. Our work is to show up in spaces of fear and isolation, and support communities as they reclaim and occupy public spaces with images and affirmations they choose," Suleman said.

"More than ever, there is a need for practising in collaboration with others, creating spaces, organising and calling out others to take action, this is the way forward," said Sagar. —**PTI**

Air India admits sharp object was in food

It took more than a week for Air India to respond publicly to the harrowing ordeal of journalist Mathures Paul, who found a deadly metal blade during a meal on his Air India flight to the US from Bengaluru and had posted his plight on X social media platform, along with the images.

Paul took Air India Flight 175 from Bengaluru to San Francisco on June 9 and, to his horror, found a sharp object in fig chaat, served by Air India's in-flight food service.

On June 10, he posted the picture of the fig chaat, with the blade-like metal seen in the plate.

"Air India food can cut like a knife. Hiding in its roasted sweet potato and fig chaat was a metal piece that looked like a blade. I got a feel of it only after chewing the grub for a few seconds," Paul had posted.

"Thankfully, no harm was done. Of course, the blame squarely lies with Air India's," he added.

Speaking to IANS on Monday, Paul held that this could have turned into a disaster had he taken the metal object inside.

"This could have happened with any passenger on that plane. The sad part is that it took Air India a week to publicly respond to my ordeal and acknowledge what I have gone through in these days," Paul lamented.

The airline confirmed in a statement that "that a foreign object was found in the meal of a guest aboard one of our flights".

"After investigation, it has been identified as coming from the vegetable processing machine used at the facilities of our catering partner," said an Air India spokesperson.

The company spokesperson said the airline is working with its catering partners to "strengthen measures to prevent any recurrence, including more frequent checking of the processor, especially after chopping of any hard vegetable". According to Paul, the Air India stewardess "apologised for exactly three seconds and came back with a bowl of chickpeas". After a few days, the airline reached out to Paul, offering him a business class trip to anywhere in the next year, to which Paul said: "This is a bribe being offered to me, and I will not accept this".

Air India said it has "engaged with the affected customer and deeply apologises for this experience".

On Saturday, a passenger of the airline's New Delhi-Newark flight alleged that he was served "uncooked" food by the airline and the seats were dirty, describing the journey as "no less than a nightmare".

In January this year, a passenger on an Air India flight from Calicut to Mumbai, took to social media to express her dissatisfaction with the airline's in-flight catering, after she was served non-vegetarian food, instead of the vegetarian meal she had ordered. —**IANS**

Train crash in Bengal kills 15, injures dozens

Accident blamed on freight driver disregarding signal

A freight train smashed into the rear of a stationary passenger train in West Bengal on Monday, killing at least 15 people and injuring dozens, police said, in an accident that railway authorities blamed on driver error.

Media showed images of the pile-up, with containers from the goods train strewn nearby, and one carriage left nearly vertical after the accident, which comes just over a year after a signalling error caused one of India's worst rail crashes.

Fifteen bodies were pulled from the mangled carriages, Abhishek Roy, a senior police official in the eastern state's district of Darjeeling, the site of the accident, told Reuters.

NATION

Fifty-four people were injured and rescue teams from the police and national disaster response force were working to clear debris from the derailed carriages, Roy added. The goods train hit the Kanchanjunga Express travelling to Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, from the northeastern state of Tripura, driving three carriages of the passenger train off the rails.

It was not immediately clear how many passengers were on board at the time. Rescuers used iron rods and ropes to work free one carriage of the passenger train that had been swept upwards to lodge on the roof of the freight train by the impact of the collision.

The dead included the driver of the freight train and a guard on the passenger train, Jaya Varma Sinha, the head of the railway board that runs the countrywide network, told reporters. The accident happened after the driver of the freight train disregarded a signal, Sinha added.

Rescue work has been completed, Sinha said, and authorities are working to restore traffic, with the damage less extensive than initially feared. "The guard's compartment in the passenger train was badly damaged," she added. "There were two parcel vans attached ahead of it which reduced the extent of damage to passengers."

Nearby residents heard a loud crash and saw the pile-up upon going to investigate, several told the ANI news agency. **Reuters**

CID team questions BSY for 3 hours

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) questioned former Chief Minister and BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa for three hours on Monday in connection with a POCSO case registered against him.

Yediyurappa appeared before a team of CID, which had summoned him for an inquiry in connection with the case. "He was questioned for three hours," a CID officer said. The Karnataka High Court on Friday restrained the CID from arresting the veteran BJP leader in connection with the March 14 case.

According to police, Yediyurappa has been booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and Section 354 A (Sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl who alleged that he molested her daughter during a meeting on February two this year, at his residence in Dollars Colony here.

Yediyurappa has denied the charge, and said "people would teach a lesson to those indulging in conspiracies against" him.

The victim's brother had filed a petition in the court last week alleging that though the case was registered nearly three months ago, no progress has been made in the investigation. The petitioner prayed that Yediyurappa should be arrested and interrogated.

After the Sadashivanagar police registered the case in March, the Karnataka Director General of Police Alok Mohan had issued an order transferring it to the CID for further investigation.

The 54-year-old woman, who had leveled the charge against Yediyurappa, died at a private hospital here last month, due to lung cancer. In April, the CID collected the voice sample of Yediyurappa after summoning him to the office. **PTI**

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I Vijayakumar K M, R/a at No 5, 3rd floor, 108 Abhi Enclave, 4th cross, Venugopal Layout last bus stop, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097, I have changed my name to Vijay Kumar K M Vide affidavit dated on 17/04/2024. Sworn before Notary V Anjanappa Bangalore

I, R.Gunasekaran, R/o. No.512, 5TH Floor, A-4 Block, Ghataprabha (West), National Games Village, Koramangala, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to Gunasekaran Rangasamy for all purposes

I, M Guloor Sreevani S/O Subramanyam Maguloor R/O 1/611, Dharmavaram Road, Kothacheruvu, Sri Sathya Sai District, AP-515133, have changed my name to Sreevani Maguloor.

I Jayanth B R/o No 221 3rd Cross Tg Layout Ittamadu Bsk 3rd Stage Bangalore 560085 have changed my minor daughter's name from Srushti Harithas to Tanvi Harithas for all purposes.

I Chetankumar Modi S/O, Amrutlal Chhaganlal Modi R/o 08, Royal Placid Phase-2, Haralur Road, Bangalore 560102 have changed my name to Chetankumar Amrutlal Modi.

I, Labbey Arfath Ahmed S/o Labbey Altaf Ahmed R/o No 3/2, North Road, Facing Hutchins main Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore 560084, have changed my name to Labbey Arafath Ahmed.

I, Yuvraj alias Yuvaraj alias Basavalingappa S/o Sharanbasappa Kurtkoti, residing at H No 103, Lohar Street, Angol, Belgaum - 590006, have changed my name to Yuvarajh.

I, Renu R Jumani D/o Ramesh R Jumani, W/o Naresh. P.Kukreja R/o 10/1, kukreja house, 4th floor, Kumara Krupa Road, Bengaluru-560001, have changed my name to Dipika N Kukreja.

I Mayuri Rao Ananth daughter of M N Ananth resident of BTM layout, 2nd stage, Bangalore has changed my name from Mayuri Rao Ananth to Mayuri Rao for all future purposes.

I Shankar Singh Bhawar S/O, Bhavani Singh R/o No 3,273,m.s Building, Akkipet Bangalore South, Po:chickpet, have changed my name to Shankar Singh B.

I Sharik Ulla Shariff S/o Peer Shariff R/o # Muslim Block kanakapura Ramanagar karnataka-562117 have changed my name to Sharik Ulla Shariff Peer Shariff.

I, Ravikiran S/O Vasudeva Bhat M R/O 402, Suprabhat's Hill Ridge Residency, Gottigere, Bengaluru, 560083, have changed my name to Ravikiran Bhat.

LOST & FOUND

I, Nagamani V N R/o 266, 5th B Main, Remco Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040, inform that original Sale Deed has been lost of property 'Eastern Portion of site bearing No. 402, Panchayath katha No.12/402 in SLN city of Ajjaanahalli, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk'. Lost report has been filed bearing No.1015976/2024. If Found please contact at 8951431761.

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Mumbai retains top spot as India's most expensive city for expats: Survey

The financial capital of India has retained the top spot as the most expensive city for expats in the country, followed by Delhi, a report showed on Monday. Within Asia, Mumbai and Delhi experienced upward movement in the rankings. Mumbai climbed six spots while Delhi has moved up by two spots.

Other Indian cities in the ranking include New Delhi (164) has risen 4 spots in position, Chennai (189) has dropped 5 spots in position, Bengaluru (195) has dropped in ranking by 6 spots, Hyderabad (202) remained stable, Pune (205) has risen 8 spots in position, and Kolkata (207) has risen 4 spots in position.

Mumbai is now ranked as the 21st most expensive city in Asia for expatriates while Delhi holds the 30th position among surveyed locations in the region, according to Mercer's '2024 Cost of Living Survey'. In the face of global economic challenges, India has remained largely resilient," said Rahul Sharma, India Mobility Leader at Mercer. The Indian economy has experienced significant growth, primarily driven by domestic demand and a thriving services sector. Factors such as employment growth, rising middle class, and overall economic growth positively impacted the cost of living in the country, according to the survey. "Despite Mumbai's rise in rankings, the overall affordability of Indian cities remains a key advantage for multinational organisations or Indian companies looking to attract global talent," Sharma mentioned.

Globally, Hong Kong has once again claimed the top spot as the most expensive city to live in.

5 locations identified to have poor air quality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

installing of signboards as part of the scope.

Junctions chosen for the work as Tagore Circle, Dairy Circle, TC Palya Junction, Jedi Mara Junction, Nagarbhavi 12th block bus stop, TC Palya main road bridge, SP Road junction, Madhavan Circle, Narayanaswamy Mudaliar Circle, Prof K Venkatachalam Circle, Madras Sappers HQ junction, D Bhaskaran road junction, Mekhri Circle, Jnanabharathi Junction, Nanjappa Junction, Konankunte Cross, Subramanyapura Road junction, CNR Rao underpass, Iblur Lake Junction, and Sangolli Rayanna Junction.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 20 crore out of which Rs 2 crore would be spent towards landscaping. "We are planning for improvement on major roads and junctions. We will be taking up geometric corrections and landscaping work. While the landscaping will be aimed at improving air quality, the geometric corrections will aid the pedestrians.

Certain junctions need to be corrected for missing kerb stones, footpaths/broken footpaths, missing markers, traffic islands, and easy management of pedestrian traffic. Additionally, we will also take up lighting work at the junctions. It is estimated that excluding the landscaping the project would cost Rs 18 crore.

A separate tender for landscaping amounting to Rs 2 crore will be called soon," said a senior BBMP official.

Of the total site spanning 1,41,500 sqm, these junctions already have 27,474 sqm coverage of green area. Around 20 per cent of the project area is estimated to have a green surface.

Out of the 20 locations, six have zero green coverage. Additionally, five out of the 20 locations have been identified as having poor air quality and the rest are of moderate and high air quality.

HEALTH TIP: If you have sensitive skin, exfoliate once in 10 days; if your skin can handle it, go for weekly exfoliation

Keeping skin moisturised and hydrated prevents your oil glands from overproducing oil or sebum

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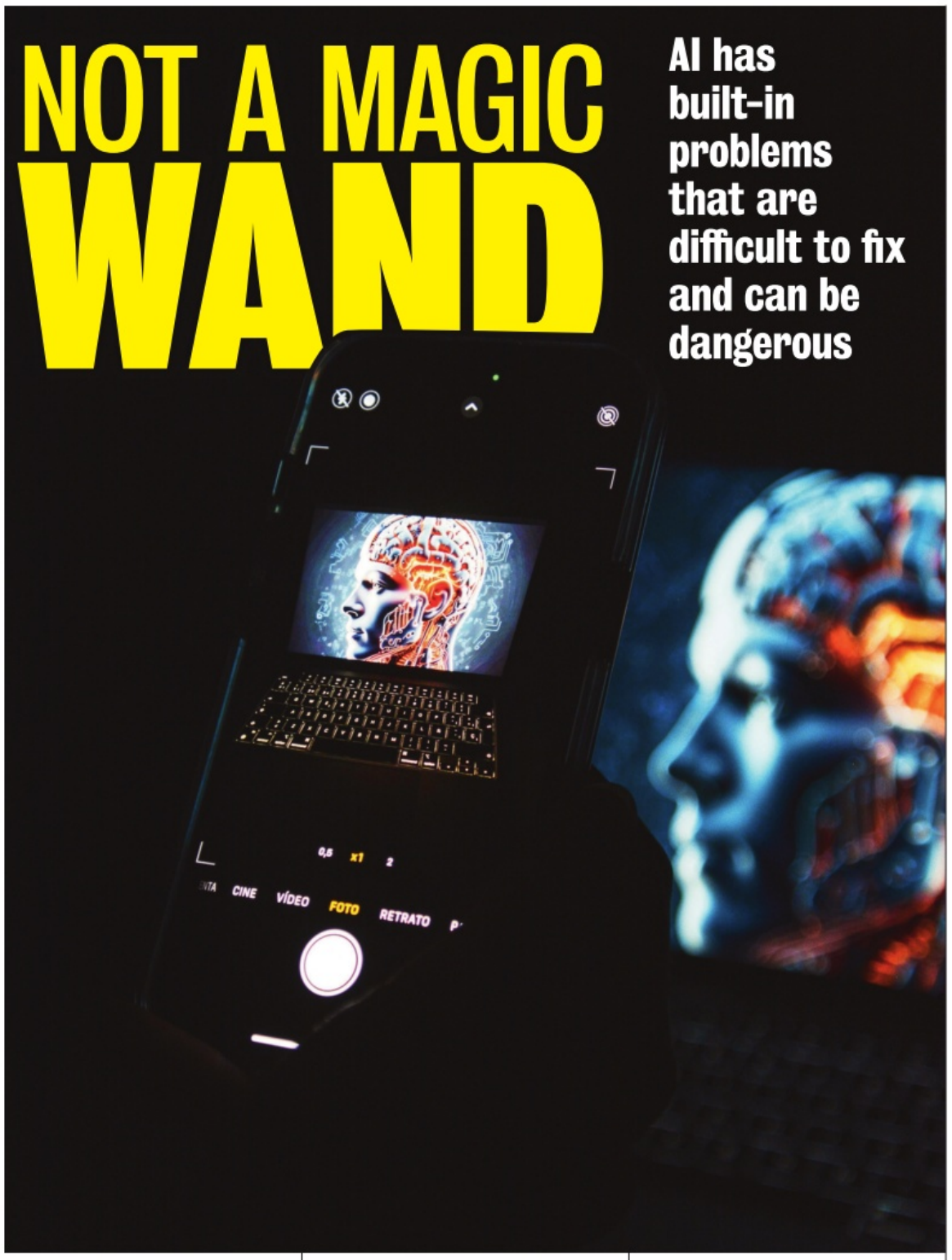
NOT A MAGIC WAND

AI has built-in problems that are difficult to fix and can be dangerous



By now, all of us have heard and read a lot about artificial intelligence (AI). You've likely used some of the countless AI tools that are becoming available. For some, AI feels like a magic wand that predicts the future.

But AI is not perfect. A supermarket meal planner in Aotearoa New Zealand gave customers poisonous recipes, a New York City chatbot advised people to break the law, and Google's AI Overview is telling people to eat rocks.

At its core, an AI tool is a particular system that addresses a particular problem. With any AI system, we should match our expectations to its abilities – and many of those come down to how the AI was built.

Let's explore some inherent shortcomings of AI systems.

One of the inherent issues for all AI systems is that they are not 100% accurate in real-world settings. For example, a predictive AI system will be trained using data points from the past.

If the AI then comes across something new – not similar to anything in the training data – it most likely won't be able to make the correct decision.

As a hypothetical example, let's take a military plane equipped with an AI-powered autopilot system. This system will function thanks to its training "knowledge base". But an AI really isn't a magic wand, it's just mathematical computations. An adversary could create obstacles the plane AI cannot "see" because they are not in the training data, leading to potentially catastrophic consequences.

Unfortunately, there is not much we can do about this problem apart from trying to train the AI for all possible circumstances that we know of. This can sometimes be an insurmountable task.

You may have heard about AI making biased decisions. Usually, bias happens when we have unbalanced data. In simple terms, this means that when training the AI system, we are showing it too many examples of one type of outcome and very few of another type.

Let's take the example of an AI system trained to predict the likelihood a given individual will commit a crime. If the crime data used for training the system mostly contains people from group A (say, a particular ethnicity) and very few from group B, the system won't learn about both groups equally.

As a result, its predictions for group A will make it seem these people are more likely to commit crimes compared to people from group B. If the system is used uncritically, the presence of this bias can have severe ethical consequences.

Thankfully, developers can address this issue by "balancing" the data set. This can involve different approaches, including the use of synthetic data – computer-generated, pre-labelled data built for testing and training AI that has checks built into it to protect against bias.

Another issue with AI can arise when it's been trained "offline" and isn't up to date with the dynamics of the problem it is meant to work on.

A simple example would be an AI system developed to predict daily temperature in a city. Its training data contain all the past information on temperature data for this location.

After the AI has finished training and is deployed, let's say a severe climactic event disrupts the usual weather dynamics. Since the AI system making the predictions was trained on data that didn't include this disruption, its predictions will become increasingly inaccurate.

The way to solve this issue is training the AI "online", meaning it is regularly shown the latest temperature data while being used to predict temperatures.

This sounds like a great solution, but there are a few risks associated with online training. We can leave the AI system to train itself using the latest data, but it may get out of control.

Fundamentally, this can happen because of chaos theory, which, in simple terms, means most AI systems are sensitive to initial conditions. When we don't know what data the system will come across, we can't know how to tune the initial conditions to control potential instabilities in the future.

Sometimes, the training data just isn't fit for purpose. For example, it may not have the qualities the AI system needs to perform whatever task we are training it to do.

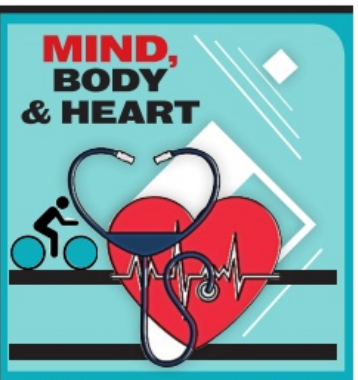
To use an extremely simplified example, imagine an AI tool for identifying "tall" and "short" people. In the training data, should a person who is 170cm be labelled tall or short? If tall, what will the system return when it comes across someone who is 169.5cm? (Perhaps the best solution would be to add a "medium" label.)

The above may seem trivial, but issues with data labelling or poor data sets can have problematic consequences if the AI system is involved in medical diagnosis, for example.

Fixing this problem is not easy, since identifying the relevant pieces of information requires a great deal of knowledge and experience. Bringing on board a subject matter expert in the data collection process can be a great solution, as it can guide the developers on what types of data to even include to begin with.

As (future) users of AI and technology, it is important for all of us to be aware of these issues to broaden our perspective on AI and its prediction outcomes concerning different aspects of our lives.

(By Niusha Shafiabady, Charles Darwin University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Types of depression

6 biotypes
In a first, scientists on Monday said they have sorted depression into six biological subtypes, or "biotypes", and identified treatments that are more likely or less likely to work for three of these subtypes.

Brain images
Brain imaging combined with machine learning can reveal subtypes of depression and anxiety, according to the study led by researchers at Stanford Medicine in the US which has been published in the journal Nature Medicine. Using a machine learning approach known as cluster analysis to group the patients' brain images, the team identified six distinct patterns of activity in the brain regions they studied.

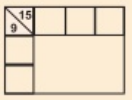
Treatment match
"Better methods for matching patients with treatments are desperately needed," said Leanne Williams, director of Stanford Medicine's Center for Precision Mental Health and Wellness.

What works
In the study, patients with one subtype, which is characterised by overactivity in cognitive regions of the brain, experienced the best response to the antidepressant venlafaxine (commonly known as Effexor) compared with those who have other biotypes. Those with another subtype, whose brains, at rest, had higher levels of activity among three regions associated with depression and problem-solving, had better alleviation of symptoms with behavioural talk therapy.
Those with a third subtype, who had lower levels of activity at rest in the brain circuit that controls attention, were less likely to see improvement in their symptoms with talk therapy than those with other biotypes, the team noted.
"To our knowledge, this is the first time we've been able to demonstrate that depression can be explained by different disruptions to the functioning of the brain," Williams said.

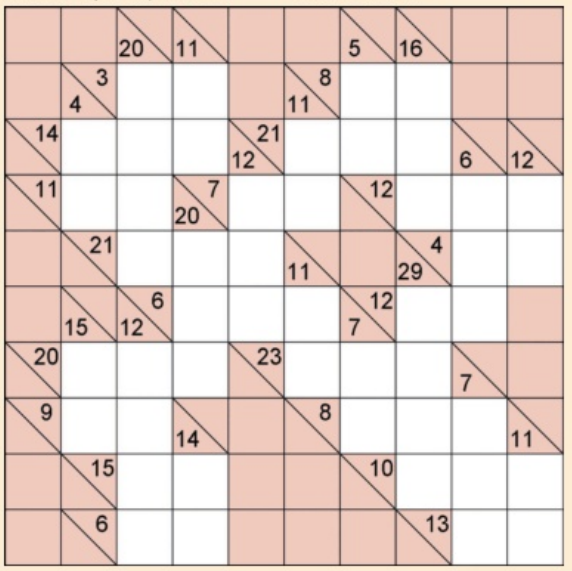
—IANS

Kakuro

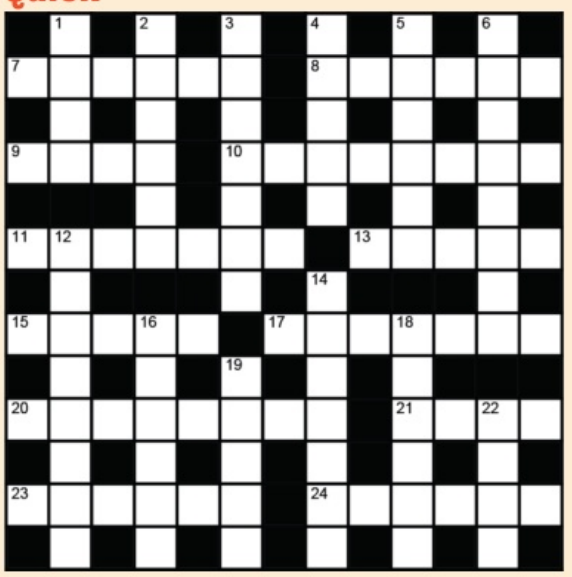
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Industrialist ___ Ambani (6)
8 Maintain one's rating (4,2)
9 To be (Latin) (4)
10 Personal property (8)
11 Bishop's staff (7)
13 Not as many (5)
15 Atomizer (5)
17 Subdued or overwhelmed (7)
20 Supplying food (8)
21 Continental coin (4)
23 Rises from one's bed ? (4,2)
24 Persevering, unyielding (6)

DOWN

1 Attila and his followers? (4)
2 Principles of belief (6)
3 Bird associated with cowardice (7)
4 Former Pakistani all-rounder Wasim ___ (5)
5 Water boiler (6)
6 Centre of a dartboard (8)
12 Substitutes (8)
14 Turn "a bridge" around to get a popular road (7)
16 Military command (2,4)
18 Sleigh (6)
19 Quick and energetic (5)
22 Regretted (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS T

DJ YGO GDFGOUY ZDQ TJ Z SZHYZDV EOMO YT HMOUOM-BO GDU UGDH, GO ETIAX COOH DY DV HTMY JTMOBOM.

Linemaro

You are like a candy bar: Half sweet and half nuts

Mindchow

There's always somebody who is paid too much, and taxed too little -- and that is always somebody else

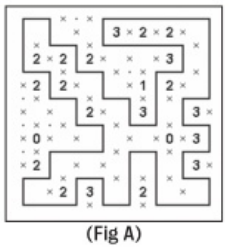
Joke of the day

Shoplifter: A person with the gift of the grab

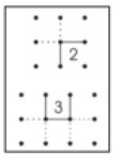
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



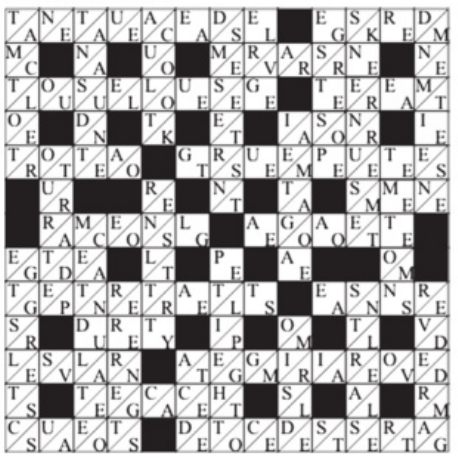
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

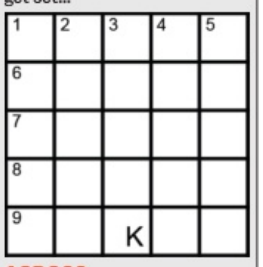
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Spars; 6 Hap he;
7 Pores; 8 So ear;
9 Ken to

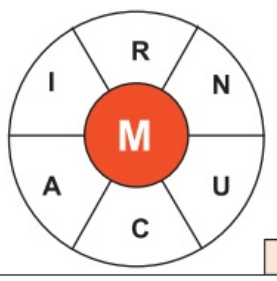
DOWN

1 Rates; 2 Or pap;
3 Hooks; 4 Pears;
5 He sen

Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		6	4		3	1		
	3			5			6	
5			7		1			4
6	8						3	1
			1		9			
2	1						4	9
1			2		6			7
	9			1			5	
		4	3		5	9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

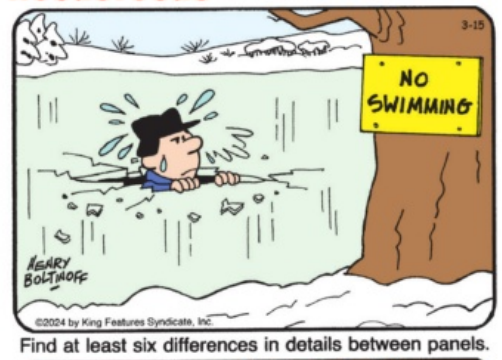
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
2 3 5 6

Medium = 6
1 2 3 7

Hard = 56
7 8 8 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

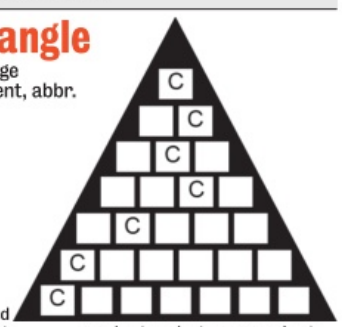
Differences: 1. Hole in ice is larger. 2. Branch is longer. 3. Earflap is missing. 4. Fingers are not showing. 5. Base of tree trunk is different. 6. Sign is smaller.

Riddler

In a syla search I give you a syllable-starter, which is the first syllable in the words you are to find. I will also give you a listing of the other syllables which you must use to figure out the 9 words. Syllable List–cu, di, er ets, ist, lar, ni, ni, o, pen, phy, ra, ri , rou, sels, ter, tog, toon, val, vas, vore. Syllable-starter: car How many syllables, each word has: 1. (2), 2. (3), 3. (3), 4. (3), 5. (3), 6. (3), 7. (3), 8. (4), 9. (6)

Alpha triangle

1 Computer language
2 Alternating current, abbr.
3 Expert
4 Shoe string
5 Relative extent
6 Wipes off
7 Bassinets

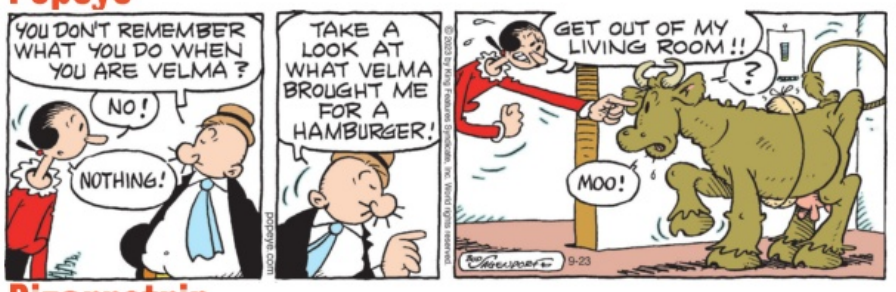


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

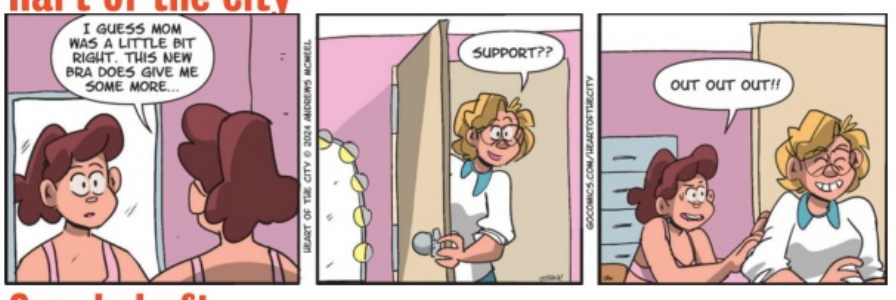
Popeye


YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE VELMA ?
NO!
NOTHING!
TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT VELMA BROUGHT ME FOR A HAMBURGER!
GET OUT OF MY LIVING ROOM !!
?
MOO!
9-23

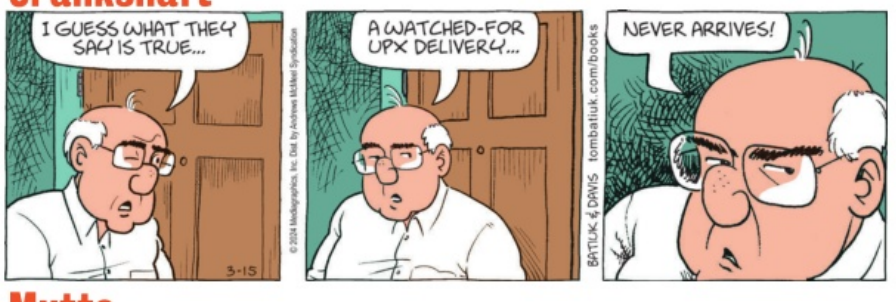
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, happiness may surround you, enabling you to enjoy your daily work. Your vitality can help you make difficult decisions, increasing your future profits. You may plan a short work-related trip. Subordinates and colleagues may support you in completing tasks on time. Students may find themselves more focused on studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull, and sleeplessness might affect your mental and physical health. You could be upset due to a family member's health issues. Expenditure on unnecessary items may impact your savings. Be cautious of potential conspiracies and keep an eye on your opponents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, quick decisions may yield future benefits. Expect new sources of income that could boost your savings. With your partner's help, consider investing in a business with potential profitability. Improved understanding with your spouse may bring harmony at home.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at the office, leading to less time for your family due to mental fatigue. Job seekers may benefit from elders' blessings with potential for higher positions. Managers may get promoted to top management, receiving rewards that elevate their status. Professionally, it's a positive day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel a positive energy guiding you in the right direction, bringing peace of mind and noticeable performance in various aspects of life. Consider visiting a distant religious place. Your inner voice may urge you towards charitable acts. Expect good news, possibly related to grandchildren.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel isolated, engaging in self-analysis. Anticipate changes in your position or surroundings. Patience will be tested, and avoid arrogance, as it could affect personal relationships. Adventure tours should be avoided.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel healthy and seek rewards for hard work, recovering previously stuck funds that improve liquidity in business. Job seekers could excel in interviews, and students may receive positive academic news. Enhance your social status with creative endeavors at home or work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, expect good performance at work and a strong rapport with your boss, potentially securing a prominent position in your job and organization. Watch out for competitors and hidden adversaries. Maintain a routine to prevent lifestyle-related health issues. Job seekers may find suitable opportunities.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, until afternoon, nerves may dominate. Trust your intuition in business and investment decisions. Lovebirds should avoid major relationship decisions. Students need extra effort in studies. Afternoon brings relief, supported by elder blessings.

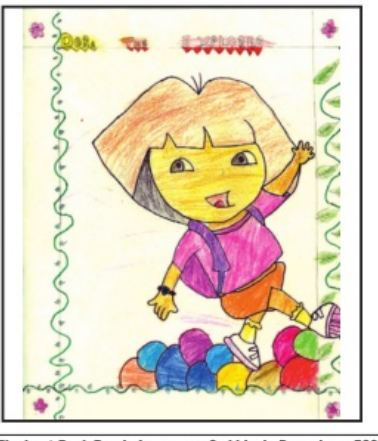
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today isn't favourable. Disappointment and lack of focus may delay projects. Avoid new investments in fixed assets or construction plans for now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, helping others enhances your social standing. Put maximum effort into work, completing tasks ahead of schedule. Good news may arrive from siblings. Avoid stress, as it can impact both personal and professional life. Consider meditation and fasting.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, high energy levels boost your happiness and focus on projects. Your boss may praise your efficiency. Expect financial gains in business, potentially leading to a new romance.

KIDZONE

Siya K, 9 Years, Cluny Convent High School



K B Trishaa Shree, 9 Years, Bangalore

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
1. Carets (car ets),
2. Carnival (car ni val),
3. Carnivore (car ni vore),
4. Carpenter (car pen ter),
5. Cartier (car t er),
6. Carousels (car rou sels),
7. Cartoonist (car toon ist),
8. Cartography (car tog ra phy)
9. Cardiovascular (car di o vas cu lar)

SOLVE IN 1M
$(7^{-3})^{-2/3} = (343)^{-2/3} = (-7^3)^{-2/3} = -7^2 = 49$

FAST FIVE

R	A	S	P	S
E	P	H	A	H
S	P	O	R	E
A	R	O	S	E
T	O	K	E	N

STRIKE OUT

A	N	T	E	C	E	D	E	E	K	E	D			
C	A	O	E	R	A	S	E	E	E	P	U	P		
T	O	U	L	O	U	S	E	T	E	A	M			
O	N	K	E	I	O	N	I							
R	O	T	A	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	S			
E	V	A	N	A	G	R	I	E	V	E				
R	D	R	Y	I	O	T	D							
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	E	S	S	E			
E	T	A	T	P	E	M								
A	M	O	N	G	A	G	A	T	E					
R	E	T	A	S	E	E								
S	U	E	S	E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A			

QUICK

H	T	C	A	K	B									
M	U	K	E	S	H	K	E	E	P	U	P			
C	A	O	E	R	A	S	E	E						
T	O	U	L	O	U	S	E	T	E	A	M			
E	S	S	E	C	H	A	T	T	E	L	S			
N	N	I	R	T	T	L								
T	K	M	K	E	E	P	U	P						
R	E	B												
C	R	O	S	I	E	R	F	E	W	E	R			
S	P	R	A	Y	C	R	U	S	H	E	D			
E	N													
C	A	T	E	R	I	N	G	E	U	R	O			
C	A	P	D	U										
L	T	Z	I	L										
S	H	E	D	Y										
G	E	T	S	U	P	D	O	G	E	D				
S	E	Y	E	E	D									

SUDOKU

8	6	4	3	7	5	9	1	2
7	9	2	8	1	4	6	5	3
1	5	3	2	9	6	4	8	7
2	1	7	6	3	8	5	4	9
3	4	5	1	2	9	8	7	6
6	8	9	5	4	7	2	3	1
5	2	8	7	6	1	3	9	4
4	3	1	9	5	2	7	6	8
9	7	6	4	8	3	1	2	5

MENSA PUZZLE
You are ahead of the game.

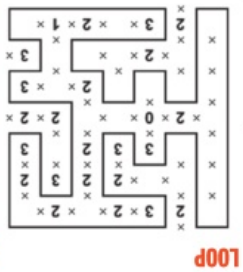
QUOTE UNCODE
If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.

BULL'S EYE
amir, cram, CRANIUM, cumin, main, manic, mica

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, AC, Ace, Lace, Scale, Clears, Cradles.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 6 – 5 + 2 = 6
Medium
7 – 3 – 1 x 2 = 6
Hard
8 + 8 – 8 x 7 = 56

LOOP



KAKURO

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All's well in the family — All is well between Sonakshi & Shatrughan Sinha, says family friend Pahlaj Nihalani after Shatrughan said earlier that he was not aware that his daughter was getting married

Important role, not number game

Kartik Aaryan's latest film, 'Chandu Champion,' directed by the legendary Kabir Khan, premiered on June 14, 2024. During its promotional period, Kartik dedicated himself to connecting with the audience as much as possible.

However, the film's success ultimately hinges on its box office performance. In a recent interview, Kartik shared his thoughts on box office numbers and whether they genuinely concern him. He revealed that 'Chandu Champion' is one of the biggest films of his career. In a conversation with the Free Press Journal, Kartik was asked if box office numbers bother him. He responded that all actors hope for their films to be profitable. He added that regardless of the final numbers, the most important thing is that his producers make a profit.

He stated that his job is complete once his producers and exhibitors earn from his films. This, he said, is his only pressure, while everything else is just for headlines. Kartik acknowledged that higher numbers are always welcome, but he has accepted that not every film will be a hit. The 'Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety' actor expressed his desire for continued box office success but admitted uncertainty about the formula and experiencing early Friday jitters.

In the same interview, he mentioned that 'Chandu Champion' wasn't significant to him in terms of scale or stature; he never placed it in that category. He emphasized that it was his most challenging role and one he would always cherish.

He hopes people will remember this role in his filmography and be inspired by the film and his portrayal. Kartik remarked that such characters rarely come along in life and stressed that box office numbers are not the most important aspect. **—ETimes**

SOMERSAULT HER WAY IN

How Sharvari trained to be part of a spy film

Sharvari is currently enjoying the success of her latest film Munjya, which has earned more than Rs 53 crore in just 10 days. She will very soon start shooting for Aditya Chopra's Spy universe, wherein she will share screen space with Alia Bhatt, Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor. Last year, a video of Sharvari had gone viral where she was seen training for somersaults at Tiger Shroff's gym.

Talking about in an exclusive interview with ETimes she revealed that it was part of her audition for the spy film. Sharvari said , "I trained for about three to four months with Kuldeep, who also works with Tiger very closely at his gym. At that point I did not know what I was training for but Adi (Aditya Chopra) sir wanted to see whether I can pick up an action body language because I had never done it before. In fact Vedaa (with John Abraham) was also not on the cards at that time, this was a while back actually. So, we did not have anything to show Adi sir that okay this is the kind of action I can do and I didn't even know he was considering me for this (spy) film but he purely said that okay I want you to go and I want to see you learn a few things, send me videos and I want to see whether it's possible for you." In fact, the current word on the street is that the actress is learning hand to hand combat art form for the film, as the film involves a lot of fighting sequences. Talking about it she said, "I think I'll not reveal too much about it but yes we are training for some exciting stuff." **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Surprise break

Manasvi, one of the leading ladies in Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare, is excited about her unexpected debut in Sandalwood. One song – Student Party – from the movie was released on Saturday.

Manasvi told BM she had not thought she would get to act in movies when her brother Tejas, a prospective actor in Sandalwood, posted her photos on social media. "I was on cloud nine when I got a call from director Chetan asking me to give an audition for Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare. It

was a big surprise for me," said Manasvi.

She said that she is paired opposite Manoj Vivan in the movie. "I attended the workshop conducted by director Chetan for two months. It was a great help for me. The director used to conduct rehearsals for us on the previous day of the shoots. The environment at locations has also helped me," she said.

As of now, she is studying B.Com and wants to focus on acting. "I got some remuneration for acting in Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare. I gave it to my parents as I, as a college student, don't need money. My favourite heroine is Kajol and the hero is Dr Vishnuvardhan," she said.

Vidyarthi Vidyarthiniyare also features Amar, Bhavana, Vivan, Bhavya, Sunil Puranik, Aravinda Rao, Sinchana, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Prashanth Sambargi, and Cockroach Sudhi. Vijit Krishna and Vasu Dikshit are the music directors.

Title launched

Prithvi Ambar of Diya fame and Rathavara director Chandrasekhar Bandiyappa's new movie title was launched by Roaring Star Srimurali. The film is called Chowkidar and Prithvi Ambar plays the lead. This is Bandiyappa's sixth movie and it will be made in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.

"It is not a mass movie but a family entertainer. It will be narrated in a unique and rugged style. The movie will go on floors after muhurat pooja at Sri Bandemankalli Temple on July 3. Most of its shooting will be held in and around Bengaluru. We have a plan to go Europe for a song shooting," said Bandiyappa.

The director said the shooting of the movie is expected to be wrapped up in two schedules. "We are planning to complete the shooting in 100 days," the director said.

Prior to this, the director handled the megaphone for movies Aane Pataki, Rathavara, Tarakasura. "I made my debut in Bollywood with Red Collar which is yet to be released. Kannada actor Kishore plays the lead in the movie. I also wrote the script for the movie Karavali directed by Gurudutt Ganiga," he said. Chowkidar is bankrolled by Kallahalli Chandrasekhar.

Well-grounded young lady

Following her historic Oscar win for her role in Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story' adaptation in 2021, Ariana DeBose has been navigating the highs and challenges of fame, learning valuable lessons about gratitude and resilience along the way.

In an interview with People magazine, DeBose shared how a simple question from Jamie Lee Curtis has profoundly impacted her perspective, "Where are your feet? Tell me where your feet are."

Reflecting on this, DeBose emphasised, "It reminds me to be in the moment that I'm in and not take anything for granted. My feet are on the ground. I'm very focused on remaining grateful for the moment that I'm in, even if that moment is challenging."

DeBose's career skyrocketed after her Oscar win, making her a household name and marking her as the first Afro-Latina and openly queer woman of colour to win an acting Academy Award.

Despite the accolades and recognition, she remains grounded and mindful of the present moment. Hosting the 2024 Tony Awards for the third time on June 16, DeBose continues to expand her career with projects like the upcoming superhero film 'Kraven the Hunter,' set to release in December.

However, DeBose admitted to the challenges of staying grounded amidst the pressures of the entertainment industry.

"We as an entertainment community perpetuate this idea that we always have to be moving forward to safeguard the success we've already achieved and level up," she explained adding "The Rat Race of Success it's a terrible way to look at it potentially, but sometimes, that's how it feels." **—ANI**